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Cauldwell - History of Lorenzo
and Virginia - 1834

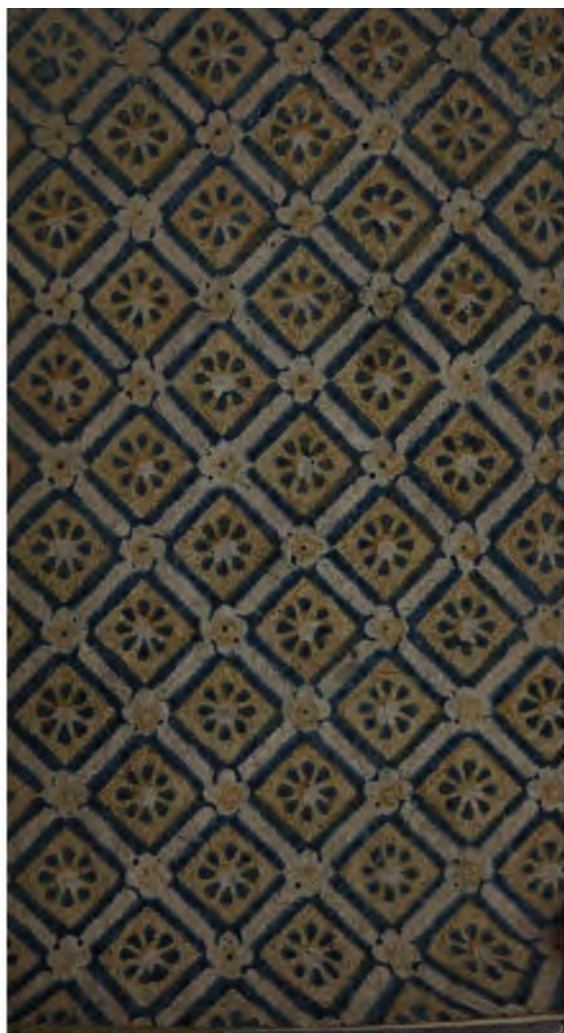


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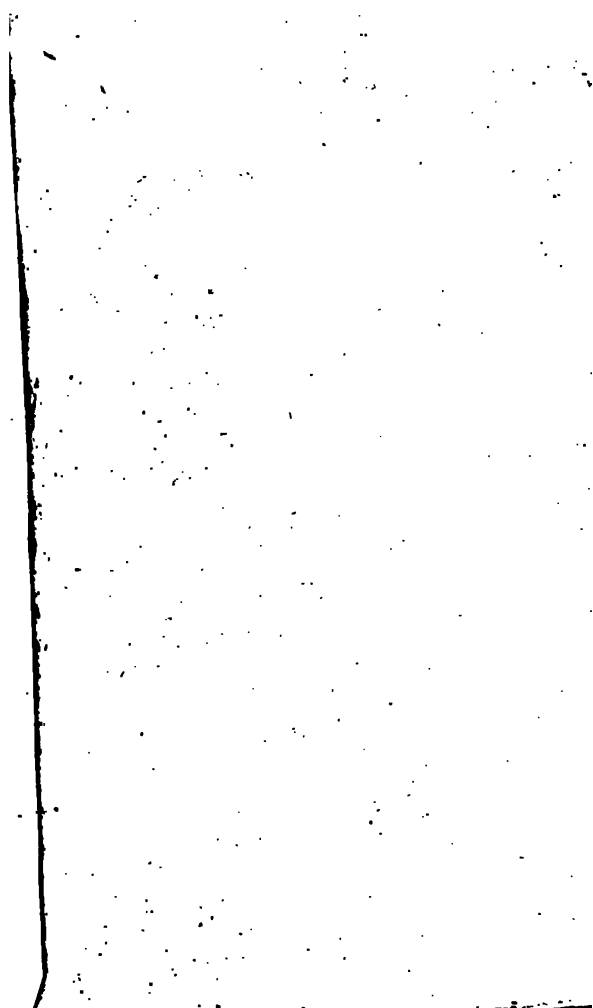


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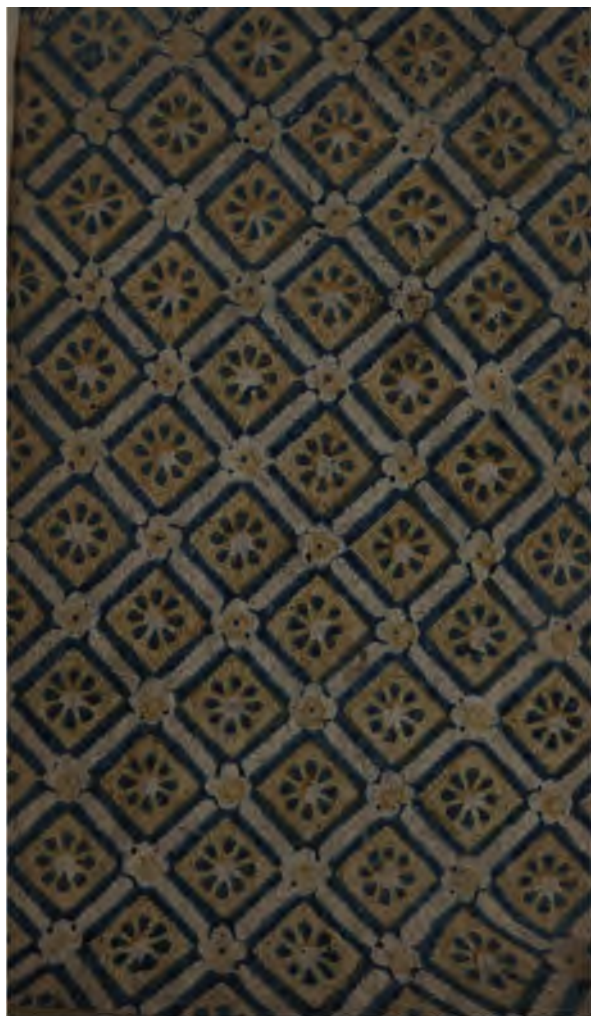


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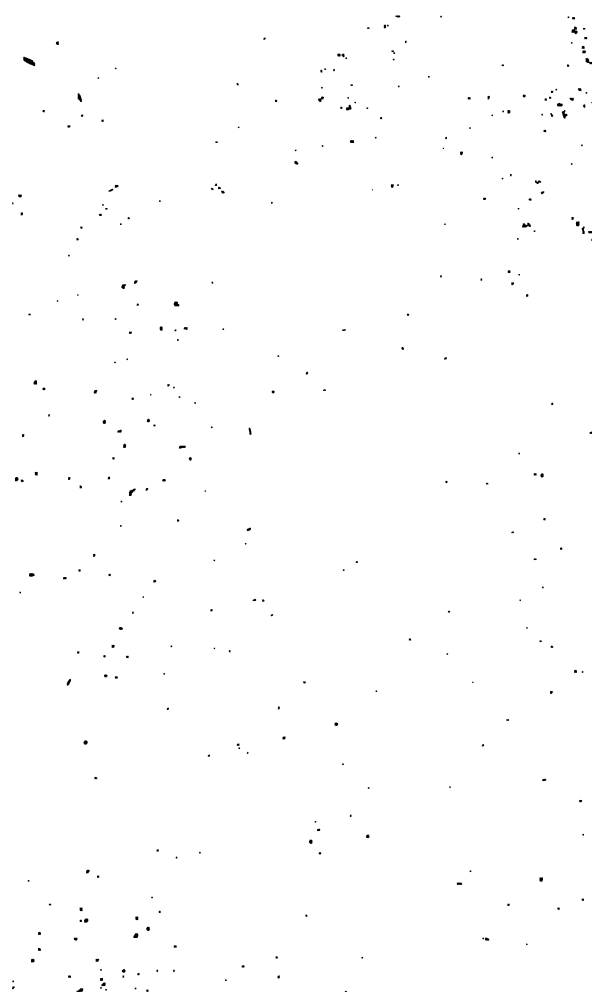


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7. _____



HISTORY
OF
LORENZO AND VIRGINIA,
OR
VIRTUE REWARDED.

An Address to the young ladies of Columbia, calculated to inspire the bosom with pleasing sensations and arm the virtuous with fortitude under the most forlorn circumstances.

* * * * * Prepare to hear
A story that will turn thee into stone :
Could there be hewn a monstrous gap in nature,
A flaw made through the centre by some god,
Thro' which the groans of ghosts might strike the ear,
They would not wound thee as this story will.—LEE.

BY T. H. CAULDWELL, D. D.

CONCORD, N. H. :
EASTMAN & CHADWICK, PRINTERS.

1834.

2.5276.43.379



Times money

HISTORY

OF

LORENZO AND VIRGINIA.

IN the suburbs of the city of Philadelphia, in the soft season of the year, about one o'clock, on a moon shining morning, on the terrace of an high building, forty feet from the ground, appeared a most beautiful lady, of the age of sixteen; she was clad in a long white vest, her hair of a beautiful chesnut color, hanging carelessly over her shoulders; every mark of greatness was visible in her countenance, which was overcast with a solemn gloom, and now and then the unwilling tear, unnoticed, rolled down her cheek.

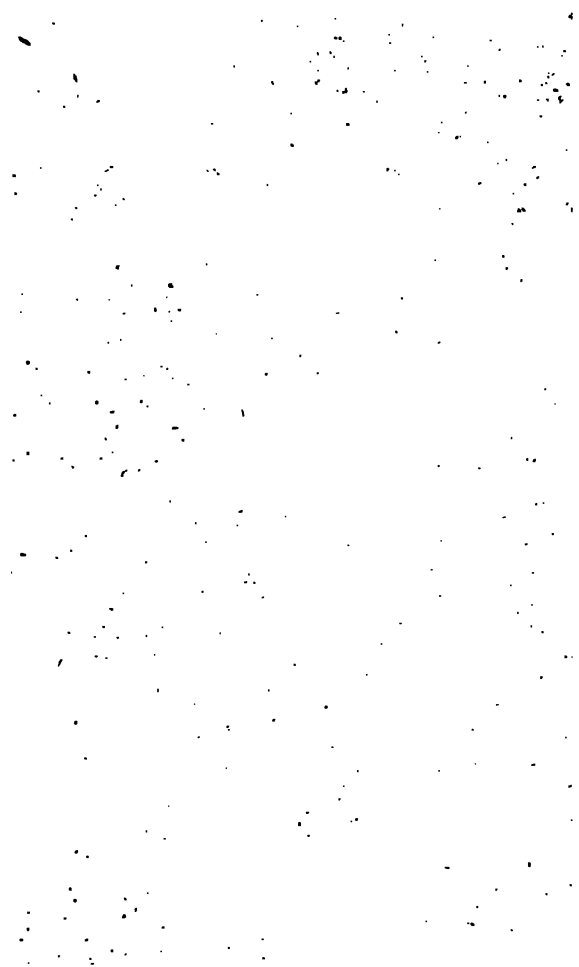
She cast her eyes around, taking a survey of the garden below and the places adjacent; a fixed melancholy apparently increased on her countenance, and now and then the big sigh would burst from her labouring bosom; more than once she attempted to return into the chamber from which she had made her appearance—and then would appear unresolved. At length, taking a chair, and seating herself near the side of the terrace, and after a few moments of expressive silence, she thus uttered



worthy of the name of father! Has he assassinated him? or has he procured his manumission to some barbarous land? O could I but once more see him, though it were but just enough to bid him a final farewell—O! could I but have the satisfaction of taking my leave of him, though it were in the agonies of death; how would I wash his mangled limbs with tears, and kiss the departing soul from his quivering lips! How would my soul burst thro' the shackles of its clay tenement, and bear him company through the unexplored regions of elysium! But in vain the wish. But what doth my eyes see passing through the moon shades of the garden? It is my dear loved Lorenzo, or his spirit returned from the elysian fields! But hark, I hear his footsteps; it is he and not his spirit—Once more have my optic nerves re-animated my almost deserted body—Lorenzo! Lorenzo! once more your Virginia beholds you; my eyes are enchanted at the prospect, though bars of iron hold me from your embraces! Three bolted doors secure me from you—yet I behold you, and never more will I complain of adverse fortune, if I can but expire before you are taken from my view, dear Lorenzo, Lorenzo!" He lifted up his eyes and beheld her—with the strongest emotions of elevated joy he exclaimed, "My dear Virginia, it is enough! once more I do behold the object to which in my mind I had given a final adieu!—driven from your arms

by a father who till the fatal moment had expressed his approbation of me in the most flattering terms, with a serocity which I never before believed human nature capable of, he drove me from his house, after having torn from me the delight of my eyes, and the ravisher of my heart—tell me, my dearest Virginia, what was the cause of this strange alteration of conduct in him whom once I thought worthy to be called your father”

The distressed Virginia replied—“Ambition! cruel ambition, is the cause of our misfortune—no man was ever better pleased with another than my father was with you, until monsieur Le Monte, only son and heir to a rich nobleman in France, waited on him, and offered to make me his wife, giving a most enchanting description of the honor and pomp he would advance me to—The temptation was too great for him to withstand—the anticipations of tinselled greatness took the full possession of his soul—he promised Monsieur that I should be his—he soon informed me of my destination, and I could see joy sparkling in his eyes, when he reflected on the good fortune to which he fondly imagined my good stars had destined me. In vain did I remonstrate to him, that by his own voluntary consent I had formed an indissoluble union with my dearest Lorenzo, and that love had cemented us beyond the power of separation; and while I was going on with my most pathet-







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gion that "

pomp and show of tinselled greatness, and the palace near a monarch's court, induce you to destroy the present peace and future welfare of your only child."

Her father listened to what she said, until she had gone through ; when with a stern aspect he replied, " Poor silly creature, your folly would be your utter ruin, had you not a father living to bridle your giddy passions: but to reason with a person void of all rationality is no part of my business. Remember you are under my government, and that my will is your law ; that nothing will be able to divert me from a purpose of having Le Monte for my son-in-law; and you may as well submit to my pleasure quietly as to be dragged to it by force, which will be the case if you prove refractory. As to your Lorenzo, he is a man whose fortune does not exceed that to which you are born, but Le Monte has an inexhaustible fund, both of riches and honor." Thus saying, he left her to her own doleful reflections. Sleepless and wearisome moments were her companions until the next morning, when a servant of the family entered the room informing her that it was her father's pleasure that she should prepare herself to breakfast with Le Monte and himself; at which he left the room throwing into her lap a newspaper, and the first thing she espied therein, was the fatal intelligence that Lorenzo, after he had been taken prisoner by the British, proved so fran-

tically refractory, that in a fit of rage one of the officers had sheathed his sword in his heart, and he was dead ! at the reading of which, poor Virginia swooned away, and fell on the floor; the noise of which brought the servant again into the apartment, for, by his master's orders, he had waited at the door to observe her. He, seeing her in that condition, called up the family, and a long time it was before they could restore her to her senses; and when at last it was effected, with eyes starting with horror, she exclaimed, " He is gone ! he is gone ! Lorenzo is no more ! had it not been for my cruel father he would still have been alive and with me; but untimely death hath closed his eyes ; and you, O my father, must be answerable for that and all its consequences ! But you shall be disappointed; never will I be Le Monte's ; if I am deprived of him in life, I will still be his in death: he has my heart, and I will never give it to another. I will descend to the grave ! I will retire from the theatre of this world, which has no longer any thing in it to allure me, and will seek that peace in the unexplored regions of futurity, of which I am deprived here by a relentless father.

To no purpose did her father attempt to reason with her, telling her, that as Lorenzo was dead, she was absolved from her obligations; that she, in consequence thereof, was again under parental disposal ; that now she

had no excuse of duty to Lorenzo; that that religion which she the day before spoke so highly of, made it her duty now to submit to the dictates of her father, and that if she refused, she must lose his blessing and her own peace of conscience here, and be sure of the indignation of her maker and judge hereafter; and that for her to continue obstinate would be of no service to her, as she was totally in his power, and that he was fully determined she should, that very night approaching, embark with Le Monte. She observed to him, that to urge the death of Lorenzo as an argument for her *again* coming under his disposal, when at the same time he was the guilty cause of it, did not carry any great matter of force with it, and that it was enough for him to deprive her of Lorenzo, without adding a curse of little less magnitude to her misfortune; for the joining her to Le Monte would add as much to her wretchedness as the depriving her of Lorenzo.

Her father finding expostulation had no kind of effect upon her, withdrew, to prepare for her embarkation; and the evening following forced her into a coach, which conveyed her, in the course of the night, to the wharf where lay the ship in which Le Monte was to return to France, waiting for her arrival. She was hurried on board; and the wind being favorable, they hoisted sail, and in a few days lost sight of the American shore. Grief, amaze-

ment and horror, occupied the breast of Virginia, though Le Monte used every effort to recommend himself to her, but to no purpose. She replied to him, that it was in vain for him to attempt what was totally impossible ; that her aversion to him was so great that time and circumstances would never be able to effect it ; that though he had the power over her body, yet her mind was and should continue free ; that she never would give him her hand or heart, and that he might rest assured he would never have the satisfaction of being her husband ; that even the crown of France was too trifling a toy to have any effect on her mind. In discourses like this they passed a tedious passage of thirty one days, when one morning the light presented to their view three British ships, at not more than half a league's distance, to the leeward of them; flight was impossible, and in a few minutes the nearest of the ships fired a shot across their bow. The captain of the French ship called his officers together and held a momentary council of war the result of which was to strike their colors and yield themselves prisoners of war ; which was done immediately.

The captain and some of his principal officers, together with Le Monte and Virginia were carried on board the commandant's ship but what was the surprise of Virginia, when

on board of the captor she beheld her lost Lorenzo ! Nor were the sensations of Lorenzo less nervous at beholding his adorable Virginia. They both stood silent, swallowed up in extacy, while their expressive countenances declared the emotions of their hearts more intelligibly than the most finished composition of words is capable of doing.

The captain of the British ship, on observing what had passed, took Virginia into his cabin, saying, " Fair lady, by the silent messages which passed between you and Lorenzo, a prisoner in my ship, I fancy you had some former acquaintance with him, and that by some means he has been forced from you, and your meeting seems to be unexpected to both; be so good as to inform me of the circumstances as far as may be proper ; you are both in my power, I will see you have ample justice done you." Virginia then went on to inform him that she was the only child of a rich farmer in the neighborhood of Philadelphia ; that her father had paid every attention to her education ; that at the age of sixteen her father informed her that for three years past he had made it the whole of his study to devise means of recommending her to the only son of a wealthy merchant in the same neighborhood, whose name he said was Lorenzo ; and that Lorenzo and his father had both agreed to the match, and that he hoped there would be no objection on her part—that with blushes she

told her father she had no objection to offer to such a proposal; that she had long had a strong prepossession in favor of Lorenzo; and, in fine, she proceeded to give him a brief history of the transaction we have before related, until the then present moment.

The captain, at the end of the narration, called Lorenzo into the cabin, saying to him, "You have hitherto been a prisoner in my ship; you are henceforth at liberty, and have the freedom of the ship; I congratulate you on your fortunate meeting with your admired Virginia. An elegant state-room shall be allotted for your use; you and Virginia shall henceforth participate at my table, and when we arrive at Portsmouth, I will take suitable care of you; you shall have a safe conveyance to Holland, from whence, at your leisure, you may return to your native country." Lorenzo politely returned him his warmest thanks for his proffered goodness, and nothing but harmony subsisted in the cabin.

Le Monto, who continued a prisoner on board the same ship, in a few days was informed of all that had taken place with regard to Lorenzo and Virginia, and was stung with resentment at the information, and swore revenge. The next day he sent Lorenzo a challenge to a duel, which he accepted; and the night met for the purpose; in the issue of which, Le Monte fell, and had to ask his life

of Lorenzo, who magnanimously gave it to him.

Le Monte was so sensible of his obligation to Lorenzo, that he rose and expressed his warmest acknowledgments to him on the occasion; adding, that after experiencing such a favor from him, he had too much gratitude to do any thing which could in any degree prove disagreeable to him: "I therefore," said he, "do relinquish every idea of any claim to the admirable Virginia; I resign her to you, sir; your conduct has rendered you worthy of her who has not an equal on earth.— May you long live mutual blessings to each other, and may a beneficent Providence grant that you may forever be sharers in the best blessings which Heaven has reserved in store for its dearest favorites; and may, I hope, notwithstanding all which has passed, that Le Monte will be recorded among the number of your friends."

Nothing could exceed the courtesy with which Lorenzo and Virginia treated Le Monte on this occasion; and the remainder of the voyage was spent in the most agreeable manner, until one night, after a most beautifully serene day, they saw a prodigiously black cloud make its appearance in the western hemisphere, which was so hurried on by a terrific gale, that in twenty minutes' time it totally obscured the whole face of the Heavens, and involved them in one solid mass of substan-

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They felt the shock of the vessel's striking on bar. This was but a completion of their despair. The captain ordered the long-boat to be thrown out, that any who chose might take their chance in it, as it was more than probable that the next sea would beat the ship to pieces, and bury those in the sand who remained on board; neither was the prospect of venturing in the boat any more favorable, as it was ordering hard on impossibility for a boat to stand it for two minutes. It was at this time that Lorenzo and Virginia, who till then kept hold of each other's hands, by some means separated, and in a few minutes Virginia discovered, through the medium of the lightning, that she was the only person remaining on board. This circumstance, distressing as it was, could add but little to her wretchedness, which before was complete; she stood still and resigned herself to her fate. It was not long before she perceived that the beating of the sea had made a fatal road on the ship, which threatened every moment to come to pieces, which in about five or six hours took place.

Virginia, who was almost in a suspension of thought, found herself floating on one of the hatches, on which she was soon washed to the beach. The disconsolate Virginia, with the small remains of strength she yet possessed, was just able to avoid the fury of the next succeeding wave, which, if she had

not escaped, could not have failed of fatal to her. When she found herself the reach of the boisterous surges, she ed herself against the declivity of where she sat to bemoan her disaster weariness overcame her, and she fe sleep. When she awoke, she found storm had subsided, the boisterous v sunk into a perfect calm, the sky wa the air serene, the face of nature smiling, the birds on the boughs f air with their melody, the sun shone culiar lustre, and every appearance calculated to inspire the bosom with sensations; but all these circumsta no delights to Virginia—a fixed gloo pied her countenance, and the mos choly sensations rent her distressed she wandered, making an useless the heedless flowers which decor wanton soil over which she rambled. after hours in succession passed aw she traversed the shore, where lay ruins the shattered remains of the s no signs of any of the people, dead were to be found.

In unsuccessful researches she day, during which she found she was o island, which, though under cultivat destitute of inhabitants. The night ed the day, which she past in a ma less joyless than the day before b

but on the return of day, just after bright Phæbus had risen from his orient bed, she discovered a vessel coming down from the northward.

As good fortune would have it, she came within call of the shore; she, therefore, with a voice as loud as her enfeebled situation would admit, hailed them; and being asked what she desired, she answered that she was the only survivor from a ship lately cast away there in a storm, and wished to come on board. The captain ordered his boat to bring her on board his vessel, which was done accordingly. This vessel proved to be an American privateer, fitted out from a port in France; the captain being M——, of New York, with whom Virginia had formerly had a slight acquaintance; and knowing him to be a gentleman of strict honor, she informed him of her adventure. Captain M—— was very much affected with her story, but with no part of it more than with the hapless fate of his friend Lorenzo, with whom he had been bred at school, and for whom he entertained the greatest regard; and nothing in captain M——'s power was left unassayed to render Virginia happy; and she experienced every mark of distinction, as well from all the officers as the captain and seamen, which their situation would admit of.

Capt. M—— informed her, that after a few day's cruise in those parts they were bound

to America, and on their arrival there to be some of his first business to see her conducted safely to her friends; and in a few days they set out to put this purpose into effect. Nothing material happened the first ten days, but on the eleventh day they found themselves chased by a vessel of superior force, so that she gained considerably upon them, and it was soon made certain that she was a vessel of more than twice their force, and consequently a capture (extraordinary as it was) was unavoidable. Captain M—— Virginia, in order to escape any ill from her captors, to divest herself of her apparel, and attire herself in a suit which she accordingly did, putting on a suit of red regimentals, a gold laced belt, a sword by her side, and took upon the character of a lieutenant under the name of Valorous. By this time their pursuers were within reach of them, which was announced by the discharge of one of her bows. Capt. M——, on a more particular inspection of his enemy, began to conceive some hopes of being able to make good his attack against them; he accordingly made ready for an engagement, which soon commenced with great fury on both sides. In a few minutes the combatants were at not more than a few feet distance, while an incessant discharge of cannon, many of which were loaded with landgrade and grape shot, was sufficient

have effectually tried the fortitude of the oldest veterans; and for a considerable time fortune seemed undetermined in whose favor to decide, until a well directed fire from the British, caused captain M—— to strike his colours, and thereby decide the action. The captor put a prize master on board the prize, taking the officers (among whom was Valorous, under the character of a lieutenant) into his own vessel.

The captor proved to be a sloop of war from Portsmouth, bound to Quebec. Captain M—— and his officers received as good treatment on board the sloop as could reasonably be expected from the hands of a captor; in particular the delicate appearance of Valorous insured to her an uncommon degree of respect from the under officers and men; she kept her countenance as smooth as the unruffled sea; though at the same time, her recollections of Lorenzo totally destroyed every agreeable idea which was about to rise in her mind, though none but her pillow was a witness to her immoderate grief on the occasion.

They pursued their voyage for Quebec, where the prisoners had the promise of being liberated, they giving their parole not to enter into actual service against the British until regularly exchanged. But how fickle is fortune! When they supposed, by their reckoning, they were near in with the land, a ter-

rible storm assailed them, which continued without intermission, day after day, the rather increasing than diminishing, till on the night of the third day after the commencement of the storm; when about one o'clock they were alarmed by the breaking of the surf but a very small distance before them; a signal indicated that a bar, shoal, rocks or reef was there; and so nigh was it, that attempts to avoid it were made use of in vain; they had scarcely time to realize their situation before their vessel was aground; their fate was apparently fixed, and their small remains of hope seemed to be totally annihilated. But this suspense lasted not long; the wind was so violent and the seas so furious, that the fourth sea after she first struck reduced her to a heap of ruins, and the fragments by the violence of the waves, were washed on shore, which was but a few feet distant from the bow of the vessel, and they had the surprising good fortune to escape a watery tomb, saving three only, who were drowned.

They endeavored to seek a shelter from the storm by advancing up on the land; but attempts of this nature were in vain; twenty feet from the water was the furthest they could extend, by reason of a bank which ascended nearly perpendicular, and the darkness of the night was so dark that they could get no idea of its height; and as they traversed to the right hand and to the left, they

it was not to be avoided either way, as at a short distance it butted down into the water, and they found they must content themselves in that situation until morning; but they were overwhelmed by one melancholy consideration, viz. that they were ignorant what time of tide it was. If it should happen to be any thing near low water, they could not possibly avoid being swallowed up long before it was high water; however, it so happened that at the time of their being cast ashore it was high water, and by keeping a constant observation they soon found that the tide was on the ebb, which soon eased them from their apprehensions on that account. The night, however, passed away in a very joyless manner. When day light appeared, the storm still continuing, no very pleasing prospect presented itself to their view.

The beach on which they were, was about thirty rods in length, bounded by an insurmountable ledge of rocks, to the height of one hundred and fifty feet, which butted at each extremity into the sea, the ends of which they in vain attempted to double. Their boats they found crushed in ruins with the remains of the ship. Providentially, among the rubbish they found considerable quantities of provisions; but, unfortunately, no kind of tools larger than a jack-knife could they obtain, though the most diligent searches were made therefor. They busied themselves

principles, and experience
that nothing was to be
most vigorous exertions.

Having secured the way
they could find among the
the ship, they began to
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execute it with, yet they
could, and in the course
by their exertions, they
sufficient to float the w
sufferers, on board of which
ing they embarked, with
visions, their fire arms, and
munition. With these things
the shore, the weather and
the heavens indicated the

It was a question at first
should direct their course

was to be seen ; and by this time the snow began gently to descend.

They kept a constant lookout for a place where it was possible for them to run their raft ashore, where they might encamp on dry land ; but this they long sought for in vain, till towards evening, when the snow had fallen to the depth of six or seven inches, they discovered a small declivity in the bank, where they run their raft on shore ; and through this declivity they ascended the bank, which was about one hundred feet in length.

When they had attained the summit, they had an extensive uncultivated plain in pursuit, and not the least sign that any thing human was ever there before them.

With some difficulty in collecting materials, they built them a comfortable fire, and frying a quantity of bread and meat they soon ate a very hearty supper. By this time, it being dark, they made preparations for taking some repose.

In the morning they awoke, and beheld a serene air and a pleasant sky. They consulted what course they should then take, when it was agreed that they should divide into a number of small companies, each company to take a different route, taking a quantity of provisions each, and if either party found any inhabitants, to return to that place, and wait for the return of the rest.

Valorous, with two others, composed one of

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essentially necessary; and though they were surrounded with timber, they lacked the means of procuring it; however, they collected the small remains of wood which they had, and after incredible pains, they beat a track to an old oak tree, at about a rod's distance from them, and kindled a fire in a fracture at the bottom thereof, by which means in less than two hours they burned it down, which providentially falling across a rock, broke and split to pieces; this was a very valuable acquisition, making between two and three cords of wood. This lasted them for better than three days, when their situation seemed to arrive at the height of wretchedness. The rigour of the weather not having in any degree abated, and the small store of provisions they had brought with them being spent, there seemed nothing but inevitable death before their eyes: for although a second attempt, similar to the first, had furnished them with a considerable stock of wood, yet with nothing else to sustain nature, death could not appear at a very great distance from them, especially, as their natural strength, by excessive exertions, the inclemency of the weather, the severe hardships, and want of food, was greatly debilitated.

In this situation they lived, or rather existed, for six days, having no kind of sustenance; excepting the bark of trees, which, as it was frozen, they could get off only in small pieces

with their knives, and then thawing it by the fire, chewed and swallowed it.

At the commencement of the seventh day when their sufferings had reduced them to surprising state of weakness, and it was become certain that they could exist but a very little time longer;—they began to rack their invention to determine what they should do next. In vain did they then lament that they had not, as soon as the storm had abated, attempted to have forced through the snow way back to their rendezvous, though the prospect was very unpromising, it being, in the best judgment, nearly fifty miles, but was now too late to think of an attempt like that; and after mutually condoling each other on their desperate situation, one of the partners thus addressed his partners :

“Dear Fellow Sufferers :

“In our sad situation, a few hours more will close our eyes, to be opened no more; we no longer cease to be any advantage to each other; and though life is hard to part with, yet it is of little consequence whether we die to-day or to-morrow; and, if one dying to-day will eventually save the lives of the two survivors, or had better die alone for the other two to live than for all three to die together. For my part, as one, I move that we cast lots which of us shall die, to save the other two suffering partners.”

The other two consented to his proposal; the lots were immediately prepared, and it was the fate of Valorous to be the victim.

The unfortunate Valorous, on finding that he was doomed to suffer, with a countenance more serene and composed than perhaps the reader would expect, viewed his two doleful companions for a moment. The consoling idea of being the means of preserving the lives of two fellow-beings immediately recoiled to his recollection, and served, in some measure, to dispel the horrible idea of his situation.

Valorous told them, if they would indulge him so far as to give him time to write a few lines to his father, which he requested them to take care of, and, if ever an opportunity presented, that they would forward them to him, that he would then submit to his fate. They granted his request.

Valorous with great difficulty procured the necessary materials for writing. We need not remark that the thoughts of Lorenzo harrowed his distracted mind, or that the recollection of a relentless, unfeeling, and ambitious being—the source of all his misery—unworthy the name of PARENT, oppressed his distressed breast. With a trembling hand he takes his pen and proceeds as follows :

*From Virginia to her Father, under
name of "Valorous."*

"Dear Papa :

From the centre of a frozen wild
on the border of the grave, please to
this last token from your only child.
from home, I have been the sport of
but fifteen minutes will put me out
power. I shall then be in a state of
less retribution. Had I not been ob-
a father's stern command to forego a
I made by his express license, I might
have lived, and have been happy. Al-
I am concerned, I forgive you heartily
pray, Sir, see that you are prepared to
at the bar of the Omniscient Judge.

YOUR LOST CHILD

Valorous had just finished the letter
delivered it, when one of his woful
took up the fatal gun, well loaded—
presented it to his ear. Being about to
trigger in order to lodge its content
head, he chanced to raise his eyes
and discovered a bear wallowing in the
at about twenty yards distance. He
ed, "Valorous, thank God you may yet
and discharged his piece at the bear,
two balls in his head, of which he
stantly. If ever joy was to excess,
then so amongst this little unfortunate
pany. Valorous, whom they both look
most equal to themselves, was still

Without going to their prey they both fell upon him, embracing him as one from the dead, and the most tender expressive congratulations passed on the occasion : they all seemed lost in extacy for some space of time.

After their effusions of joy were in some measure abated, their small remains of strength were exerted in beating a road to their new acquired provision, which, after having with difficulty accomplished, they made a small repast upon. By this time it was night, and the heavens had gathered an unusual degree of blackness, and very soon a torrent of rain began to descend. They so fixed their bear skin, which was a very large one, as to be a very considerable shelter to them from the rain, and kept them tolerably dry through the sleepless night. The light of day at last approached, after the most rainy night they had ever known, when soon the clouds broke away, the wind sprung up at the northwest, and a very severe cold day ensued. So much water was in the snow, and the cold so severe, that by the middle of the day it was frozen sufficiently to bear them; which perceiving, they formed an idea of trying to regain the place of general rendezvous : but their enfeebled state was such, that they scarcely were determined whether to attempt it or not. After mature deliberation, it was concluded to set out in the morning, which accordingly they put in practice, taking with

them a quantity of meat, which they judged sufficient for their use, till such time as they should arrive at their place of rendezvous.

It is needless to recount the wearisome steps which they experienced on their journey ; suffice it to say, that on the fifth day just before night, they arrived at the place exceedingly fatigued, which they found in the same situation they had left it, and no signs were to be discovered that intimated any persons having been there since their departure ; but it was so near the windward side of the land, that the wind, in the time of the fall of the snow, had driven it entirely off from that place.

Fatigued as they were, they built a fire and provided some supper : here they found bread, pork, beef, tea, sugar, and some cooking utensils, which they had left there—and they prepared and ate a more comfortable meal than they had since their being away.

The next day they had recourse to the raft, which they found enclosed with ice ; they then repaired on the ice to the place of their shipwreck, which they likewise found the snow drifted off from. Tired of any further researches, they consulted which was the best place to fix their abode at ; and what they had considered, that at this place was the greater part of the provisions they had depend on ; that here from the ruins of the

ship they could obtain materials for building them a shelter ; and that, likewise, here they could procure fuel from the same resource, they unanimously agreed to make that the place of their residence, hoping they had provisions enough to carry them through the winter, and that in the spring, Providence would find some way for their deliverance.

Under the impression of these ideas they went to work, and fabricated themselves a hut tolerably warm, and to add to their good fortune, amongst the ruins of the ship they found a cask of Jamaica rum and another of brandy, and about eight thousand nine hundred pounds in cash, though that they looked on as a very small acquisition, but they secured it. In this situation they considered themselves tolerably happy ; but a misfortune now attacked them which they were in no measure prepared for, viz.

Valorous and one of his companions were taken sick of a pleurisy. This deadly disorder seized them so violently, that in three days both of their lives were despaired of by themselves and their companion, who left nothing unattempted which he had reason to hope would contribute to their recovery.— There was nothing but what the unfortunate two underwent, both from the extreme raging of their distemper, and also from the forlorn situation which they were unfortunately in.

However, contrary to their own and companion's expectations, on the eighth the fever broke, and by slow degrees gained their wonted strength, so that in five weeks they were able to walk about, and were in a good measure able to do such of business as their circumstances required to be done. They now passed their time agreeably as could be expected for people in their lonely circumstances, saving only the disconsolate Valorous, who, as her thoughts began to be less taken up on her own personal safety, the idea of her beloved Lorenzo would keep constantly arising in her distressed mind. The horrors of that dreadful wreck wherein they parted by shipwreck, to mention more, would keep harrowing up her mind, and depriving her of every species of comfort; her mind was distracted with terrible dreams, and her days spent in melancholy reflections. At times she was half resolved to unbosom herself to her comrades—but reason and policy forbade the measure. They supposed Valorous to be what he appeared to be—a man.

In this situation they spent their time until the return of spring, at which time their vision was nearly exhausted; when one morning, to their inexpressible satisfaction, they espied a small vessel, not more than a league and a half from the shore. They made use of every means in their power to give

notice of their situation, by firing guns of distress, which at last had the desired effect, and the vessel stood in for the shore, until they got within call, when they hailed them, and asked them what they wished. They gave them a short account of their disaster, and that in all probability they were the only survivors of a large crew. The vessel sent their boat ashore and took them on board.

She proved to be a privateer from the port of Essex County, Massachusetts State. Valorous did not think proper to make known his sex, though he informed them he was an American, and that he was a prisoner when he had the misfortune to be shipwrecked. The captain of the privateer told Valorous, if he would enter on board voluntarily he should be entitled out of the dead shares to a lieutenant's proportion of the prize money. The hands on board having agreed thereto, he accepted the appointment. As for the other two, it was agreed that they should be set at liberty the first opportunity that presented.

They cruised on the coast about a week when they fell in with, and took, a brigantine, from Bristol bound to Quebec, and with a very valuable cargo on board. The captain of the privateer put Valorous on board prize master, with a sufficiency of hands, and ordered her into Salem; unfortunately the next

day she was captured by a forcible British cruiser, and was carried into Halifax.

Valorous had, through unacquaintedness with this kind of business, left the papers which he had of the captain of the privateer, and when the captor demanded his papers, he had nothing to shew. In vain did Valorous inform him of the whole transaction. The captain of the cruise. If any one might make a good story, he accordingly put Valorous in irons, and when they arrived at Halifax—perceiving that the irons hurt his wrists they were taken off—he was put in a dungeon, and there kept, in order for a trial for piracy.

“Unhappy nymph who thus art forc’d to roam,
Without a kind protector, friend or home.”

Those who are acquainted with Halifax know that the provost under which is the dungeon, stands on a rising piece of ground, and that from a vault in the bottom of the dungeon there is a drain of about two feet square, which leads from the said vault out to the side of the hill on which the provost stands. After Valorous had been confined in this place about ten days—the eleventh being appointed for the trial—he got acquainted with the circumstance of the drain; he therefore, in company with some others, determined to make their escape through that avenue.—They therefore, one by one, let themselves down into the vault, and crept out through the

drain on their hands and knees, it being about half filled up with filth. However, they lived through the operation, though it was nauseous to the last degree, and they all got safely through, though they were all in a filthy condition. In order to divest themselves of this they had immediate recourse to the water, where they found a small shallop, on board of which they entered, and under cover of the night got clear of the harbor. But their evil genius had not left them ; for on the second day after their escape they were taken up by a small vessel of force, bound from Penobscot to London, so their pleasing hopes of seeing home were once more brought to nothing.

The captain of this little cutter proving to be a very good natured kind of a man. Valorous made it his business to enter as far into his good graces as possible, and he had every success he could wish for, and on their arrival at London, he set Valorous and the rest of the prisoners at liberty.

Valorous now found the advantage of the money he had saved out of the wreck, he having about two hundred guineas in his pockets, which his captors had not taken from him. He procured himself a couple of suits of genteel clothes, and in a few days had an opportunity to embark for Lisbon, and from thence in a few days more for Bordeaux. When he arrived at Bordeaux, his first en-

quiry was, if any Americans were in that place. As it happened there was present a French officer, who understood the English language tolerably well, who informed him that at the next door but one there lodged an American gentleman, who he believed was of a very considerable rank of life.

Valorous stepped to the door, and asked if he could have lodgings there till an opportunity presented for him to ship for America? He was answered in the affirmative—he entered the house, and was conducted into a parlor, where sat a gentleman reading a manuscript: the gentleman rose to receive him, but how great was the astonishment of Valorous, when in the face of the gentleman he recognized every feature of the long (thought) lost Lorenzo! At first thought, Valorous had like to have discovered his son and person, by the most pathetic acclamations; but a second thought forbid any thing like that;

“Time and absence cures the fondest love.”

So taking each other by the hand, they passed mutual and civil compliments, and each seated himself. Lorenzo ordered a bottle of wine and some glasses to be brought to them—and after drinking to each other, Lorenzo inquired what part of America Valorous was from. He informed him that he belonged to a privateer from Salem, and was captured and carried into Halifax: from

whence he made his escape, was again taken and carried into England, where he was liberated; and, from thence he embarked for Lisbon; finding great difficulty in obtaining a passage from Lisbon to America, he had sailed for Bordeaux, in hopes of finding a passage to his native land. Just as this discourse ended, a French gentleman entered the parlor, whom Valorous at first sight knew to be Le Monte, the cause of all his troubles.— Mutual compliments passed between Lorenzo and Le Monte, and a miscellaneous discourse passed away the time, till supper was served. Valorous then proposed taking his lodging, and was conducted to his bed; Lorenzo and Le Monte afterwards repaired to their lodging—which was separated from that of Valorous only by a partition.

Sleep had in a great measure departed from Valorous. He attended to the discourse of Lorenzo and Le Monte, after they had taken their beds. He soon found that the greatest intimacy and friendship subsisted between them, and that a marriage was on foot between Lorenzo and the only sister of Le Monte ——— and that she would be in town on the morrow from Paris, and that in a short time the nuptials were to be celebrated.— Confusion now took full possession of the distressed heart of the feigned Valorous.— She viewed her Lorenzo as totally lost to her forever; she cursed her unfortunate stars and

lamented the time she escaped the grave, and all the horrors of the disconsolate island on which she had been shipwrecked; but most of all, the ill-fated moment which again introduced her to the presence of Lorenzo. Despair and anguish rent her heart through the tedious watches of the night, and her pillow was wet with the choicest tears that ever flowed within the realm of France!

On the return of morning, they all arranged, and every preparation was making for the reception of the lady (Le Monte's sister). Breakfast was at last brought on the table. Le Monte, Lorenzo, and Valorous sat down. During breakfast-time, Valorous inquired of Lorenzo what part of America he was from. He replied, Philadelphia. Pray, sir, he, did you ever have any acquaintance with a gentleman by the name of ——? Lorenzo replied he, with a very expressive countenance: Did you know a daughter of his by the name of Virginia? Yes, replied Valorous, with a degree of melancholy which blended in his once cheerful countenance. Why, continued Lorenzo, were you ever acquainted with her? Some years ago, he said to Valorous, I was very intimate in her family, and if I forget not, when I last saw the family, she was the only surviving daughter which her father had. Can you inform me if ever she married, and whether she is

alive or not? This question brought tears into the eyes of Lorenzo, who with a voice which bespoke the perturbation of his mind, replied—Poor Virginia, the ornament of her sex and the pride of human nature, is no more: some misunderstanding with her father, with a regard to a proposed marriage, caused her to leave her home, and cross the Atlantic, in which voyage the vessel was wrecked, and the unhappy Virginia was the only person that was lost! His tears prevented him from proceeding any further, and the feelings of Valorous were too sensible to prosecute the inquiry.

After breakfast, Valorous asked Lorenzo to take a walk with him in the garden. Lorenzo rather declined, saying he should be exceedingly fond and proud of an interview, but it was absolutely necessary for him to make all the preparation he could, to receive some company of rank which would attend on him in the afternoon; in consequence of which, sir, said he, I dare say you will excuse me. Valorous replied, he had too much good nature to urge him to a measure that was disagreeable to him, and retired to his chamber, and wrote a letter to Lorenzo, then walked out to take a view of the town, giving the letter to a boy in the street, making a present to him of a guinea to secure the delivery of it to the lady of the house where Lorenzo boarded.

In about an hour Lorenzo received letter of the lady: he opened and read the contents, which were as follows:

From Virginia to Lorenzo

DEAR LORENZO:

Though through the adversity I have for a long time been deprived of only happiness, which consisted in the amiable Lorenzo, and though my name may, by this time, be forgotten from your memory, yet yours is mine, and never will cease to rest on mine, and no satisfaction or comfort shall be mine till we have an opportunity to fulfil our sacred promises, which we have made, and with sincerity, made to each other.

This from the comfortless

VIRGINIA

Lorenzo was thunderstruck at reading the lines; viewing the writing he would not believe it.

"It must be so—I am too well known with the hand, to be capable of being imposed upon. She is still alive, and she is mine. An indissoluble union united us together, which nothing is capable of dissolving. Oh Heaven! is she? I am on the rack till I know. Where is the post boy who delivered the letter?"

Lorenzo went on in such distractions until Le Monte came in, and read the letter. Le Monte was a

at hearing it, but on considering the subject, told Lorenzo it was impossible for it to be a reality, but it was a piece of imposition, contrived by some ill minded person, in order to break off his proposed marriage with his sister; saying, you know, you positively know, my Lorenzo, that it is beyond the reach of possibilities for her to be alive. She did not leave the ship with us, and it is not even the power of credulousness itself to form an idea of her escaping. Lorenzo stood in amaze; at last he replied, "It must be you are right; it is impossible she should be alive; she has long since paid the debt of nature, and is no more."

Valorous continued to walk the streets, wishing to know the effect which the letter had on the mind of Lorenzo, not being able to form a judgment how his affections stood towards Virginia; about noon he returns to the house, closely examining the looks of Lorenzo, but could read nothing in his countenance for certain. He then enters into a discourse with him, in the course of which he enquired of him how long since he was in Philadelphia? He answered about eight or nine weeks.— Was the father of Virginia alive when you left that place? He was. Was he much affected at the loss of his daughter? Exceedingly; it had like to have ruined his senses. I think when I was there last, continued Valorous, a certain gentleman by the name of Lorenzo

was paying his addresses to Virginia, you know any thing with regard to her, Lorenzo, with some tender emotions, replied, I am the person. I was once happy in the arms of the amiable Virginia—but cruel destiny, an interrupter of human felicity, forced me, and left me inconsolable to her hapless fate.

Shipwreck on the coast of England, but a moment to avail ourselves of a boat, (which was at best a forlorn hope), and some means let go her hand, and in a moment of confusion I did not perceive it till after she was gone, and the fast cut from the wreck. Distracted, I had like to have jumped myself from the boat into the water, but I attempted to have regained the vessel, and mingled fates with her; but being sensible of the impracticability of regaining the vessel, I contented myself to live every moment expecting to be swallowed in a gaping, watery grave; however, I was saved in a manner truly miraculous, and landed on a small uninhabited island, two or three miles, when providentially we were taken off by a pleasure boat, which we were taken off by a pleasure boat, who went with us to the island on which we supposed our vessel was wrecked. I was to be the same.

Here I was in hopes of finding her, whether dead or alive; but my hopes were in vain—not a trace of her was to be seen.

found ; a small trunk of hers I found washed up, which I took into possession, out of which I took this locket, having her picture set in gold ; this I have ever worn on my breast, and never shall it be transferred to any other place.

For a moment he remained, apparently unable to proceed ; at length he exclaimed—
“ O thou amiable Virginia ! never will your image be erased from my memory ; never shall I forget the time when we exchanged mutual vows, and gave ourselves up to each other, when joys extatic took full possession of our enraptured breasts at anticipating scenes of felicity which we promised ourselves, but which cruel fortune never designed we should realize. Here Lorenzo’s utterance failed him : here he gave himself up to a flood of immoderate grief, and Valorous could scarcely contain himself ; at length, in broken accents, he thus accosted him :

“ DEAR SIR : I pray that you would moderate your grief which can be of no service to you ; your sorrows can never reanimate Virginia ; when death separate lovers, though it is impossible entirely to forget, yet duty makes it necessary to banish every idea as far as is practicable ; you may no doubt find another to supply the place of Virginia.”

O ! replied Lorenzo, these are the reflections of a mind at ease ; ’tis true, I cannot reanimate the admirable Virginia ; she has bid farewell to all sublunary things, but my vene-

ration for her will never cease to exist, nor will it in any degree abate. It is true, I sought for relief in the arms of another; soon are the nuptials to be celebrated; there is nothing which can erase that sup-
indissoluble affection which I have once all placed on the inimitable Virginia: No more."

"DEAR SIR," replied Valorous, "your professions were very sincere, and Providence will never admit such virtues to go unwarded: it must have in its store of blessing some peculiar blessing to bestow on you, and though I am no prophet, I will venture to predict that your days of sorrow are nearly at an end; something you have not of at present, will soon open upon you, and will inspire you with such sensations as you have a long time been a stranger to. If you dismiss the subject, and ask me no further questions on this matter, which interest me beyond your conception; whether ever you come again or not, remember what I now say to you." Saying this he bid him adieu; and the most earnest entreaties of Lorenzo could not prevail on him to tarry any longer; he went away into the garden, leaving Lorenzo in amazement.

Lorenzo employed his reasoning power to conclude what the sequel of this matter should be, and from what information Valorous had obtained concerning him, various were his

jectures; and yet he could form no fixed idea in his own mind favoring the elucidation of this riddle which Valorous had put upon him; he walked into the house and continued his rumination on this inexplicable adventure.— While he was thus musing, there came in a boy, and delivering him a letter. He immediately retired; he opened the letter, and read the following contents :

From Virginia to Lorenzo.

DEAR SIR: If you will call at the sign of the Eagle, at half past four, precisely, you will hear of something you very little expect, and which concerns you in the highest degree: after that it will be too late. ADIEU.

This still served to increase his wonder!— but he considered it as rather an unfortunate appointment on one account, as that was the time appointed for the arrival of Le Monte's sister, whom he wished to receive with all the respect possible. He at one time would imagine it was a stratagem of some enemy of his, in order to introduce a friend between him and his proposed bride, and then he would determine to pay no kind of attention to the message; again the anxiety of his mind would be such, that he resolved, let the event be what it would, he would attend the summons.

Accordingly, at a little past four, he made preparations to go, and at twenty-five minutes sat out; but as he left the door, he looked round and discovered his proposed bride ap-

proaching at some distance, attended by a very splendid retinue, the sight of which roused his resolution of proceeding; it did not fail of striking his mind most powerfully, that if he absented himself at this time, the lady would conceive such a dislike, want of respect, that she would abandon him forever, and that she would draw upon him the revenge of Le Monte, and all his relations; however, his curiosity was so great, his anxiety so irresistible, that his determination to go overcame every consideration to the contrary. He, therefore, turned his face towards the Eagle, and suffered nothing to divert his steps; he arrived twenty-nine minutes past four; at the door he met a maid and toilet woman going out. He asked the hostess if there were any commands to a person by the name of Lorenzo? She replied, in the parlor is a young gentleman waiting for him, and immediately directed him to the room, which he entered—but, here what a surprise was he seized with—when instead of a young gentleman, found himself fixed on his adorable Virginia, decked in the magnificence that Bordeaux could give. She rose in the most graceful manner to receive him. Such a sweetness was in her countenance, as could not fail of ravishing the heart of the most stupid beholder; her beauty acquired additional lustre as they met, of her long wished for Lorenzo, whose suitor

was so great, that, for a few moments, his organs of speech were totally incapable of performing their functions, while the admirable Virginia thus addressed him :

“DEAR LORENZO : It is long since my heart has been totally in your possession; and many and great have been the sufferings which I have passed through for the sake of him whom I now have the pleasure of beholding; and you, sir, and you only, know whether my sufferings have been in vain or not; you, sir, know whether I am to be happy in your favor, or whether the sister of Le Monte predominates over your affections. You, sir, can decide on a question which is of more consequence to me than the riches of both the Indies. My complete happiness and my insupportable misery, are now suspended in the balance of your mind, and as the one or the other scale preponderates, will my fate be happy or miserable in the extreme: yet, sir, do not misunderstand me; perhaps my language conveys ideas different from my intentions, notwithstanding the many terms I have made use of. I value your repose so highly, that I never can wish you to do a thing disagreeable to yourself, in order to oblige me; and even an event like that, was I sensible of it, would only add to my torment. If, sir, I have the possession of your heart, I shall be thankful for your hand also; but to have the latter without the former, is so foreign from my wish

mination of your affections."

Lorenzo by this time had in some degree recovered of his surprise: He held her in his arms, and in accents of rapture claimed:

"O transcendently propitious
thrice bountiful, inexhaustible, n
Providence! inexpressibly benev
superlatively beneficent fates! the
alted language is more than infinit
expressive to give a comprehensiv
the grateful sensations which o
breast; I am borne down with a gra
which I have of your inconceivabl
tion towards me! I am arrived at
of human gratification: I am lost i
O ye powers omniscient! is this re
insubstantial fabric of an empty
transcendently beneficent powers!
tion—'tis no reverie of an insane
am above being imposed upon in t
the real, t

fection from you, and place it on another, shall the course of nature receive a total revolution, the sun shall cease to communicate his light or heat, darkness shall become the medium of discerning objects. Believe me, my dearest Virginia, as soon as my small affairs in France are settled, we will cross the Atlantic, and revisit the land of freedom; we will solemnize the long wished for marriage ceremonies, and we will live the remainder of our days in that felicity which we have so long in vain sought for."

In this way they exchanged a variety of mutual expressions of the most fond affections, until time had insensibly introduced the shades of the evening, when Lorenzo again began to think of his appointment with the sister of Le Monte. He mentioned to Virginia the overtures which had been made to Le Monte's sister in consequence of his despairing of ever seeing her again; that a sense of honor made it necessary for him to repair to his lodgings, and to inform her of his situation, and to make as good terms with her as he could, and that he would spend as little time on this matter, as the nature of the thing would admit of.

Lorenzo then repaired to his place of abode, where he found Le Monte and his sister waiting with anxiety for his return. On his arrival joy seemed to sparkle in their countenances, but rather decreased as they read in his visage that every thing was not right in his mind.

However, Lorenzo went through the formalities of welcoming the lady with erable good grace. But he soon called Monte aside, desiring to speak with him

"MY DEAR FRIEND," said he, "we have long been in strict friendship together. I zealously wish to cultivate and improve it. There is a matter which lays with great weight on my mind about which I wish your advice: I hope you will give me your sentiments fully." "Speak on," said Monte, "the best of my poor advice is at your service, and you cannot lay a greater obligation upon me, than to command my services." "For a considerable time," continued Lorenzo, "you have been acquainted with my affairs; you were no stranger to the treaty with Virginia, to the passion I bore her, and the solemn obligations I was under to her; since her exit you have been conversant into the particulars of my negotiations with your amiable sister, and the length of time we have carried the matter. Now, supposing that Virginia should prove to be alive, and insist on my fulfilling my engagements, what would you advise me to do, dear sir, on the sacred bonds of friendship which we are cemented, give me your partial opinion on the matter."

"What should you do?" replied Lorenzo. "Can there remain a doubt in your mind as to what you should do? It is

ble there should—are you not a man of honor? Do not your engagements, your solema promises lay with some degree of weight on your mind? Can you harbor an idea that you are at liberty to break through the solemn and delicate obligations of a matrimonial contract? If you do, how can you answer to your own conscience, to the wronged lady who has placed so much confidence in you? Can you have the most distant idea that you can make a second conveyance of yourself to one woman before you are discharged from the other? Can you lawfully dispose of any article, after you have conveyed away the whole of your title to it? If you cannot I would wish to be informed of the means by which you were discharged from your obligations to Virginia.—Will you say, you supposed she was dead?—Is that sufficient, think you? Can your own mistake deprive her of that right which she had to you, in consequence of your voluntary contract? No: your good sense will forbid your harboring such unworthy ideas. If Virginia is alive, in the name of common justice marry her. Your engagements to my sister must, in the nature of things, be on this implied condition, that Virginia is no more; it is totally out of your power to make any other contract with her, whether that condition was expressed or not.”

“Well,” said Lorenzo, “strange as it may appear, Virginia is yet alive! I have seen

her; she is now at the sign of the R. Le Monte interrupted him, saying, marry her, otherwise I should esteem totally unworthy any share in my friend you seem to hesitate—I will call in my—I will inform her of the circumstance then, if she will consent to marry you this predicament, and rival Virginia's felicity which she has hazarded her life to obtain, I shall blush, when I reflect that I have ever allied to her, and from henceforth forever disown her as a relation of mine. I will call her in and inform her, as I have your countenance that your sentiments respond with mine."

Le Monte called in his sister to the room, and informed her of the whole affair; who, after consulting on Lorenzo with a very wise discretion, gave the following decision—of female generosity and nobleness of

"DEAR SIR : Disappointments were agreeable to my nature, and, I have thought that I had the least patience with them of any mortal existing; nor do I doubt that my affections are not as true towards you as Virginia's are; nevertheless you are hers by right, and your engagements to me, under the mistaken idea of her being dead, cannot make her claim invalid. Hesitate not, my dear Lorenzo, fulfil your engagements to her; or if you do not, you will totally forfeit every claim

affections and esteem. You have my most fervent prayers that you continue long and lasting blessings to each other in the connubial state; she will always be sure of a peculiar place in my esteem, for the good will I bear to you. I hope you will favor us by introducing her into our company this evening; it will afford me the most sensible pleasure, to be in any-measure, instrumental in conducing to her happiness."

Lorenzo returned her a very polite compliment, for her candid and amiable overture; expressing his wishes, that Providence would furnish her with a husband suitable to her rank in life, and one that would be much more worthy of her than he could have the arrogance to pretend to be. He then, in company with Le Monte, waited on Virginia from the sign of the Eagle, and introduced her to the sister of Le Monte, where the remainder of the evening was spent in the greatest conviviality, and nothing could exceed the pleasing compliments which passed between those two rival ladies.

After this Lorenzo and Virginia made the greatest despatch for returning home. They embarked on board a vessel, and after a short passage arrived at Philadelphia—and in a few days proceeded to the altar of Hymen, where their hands were joined in the bonds of matrimony, amidst a crowd of spectators.



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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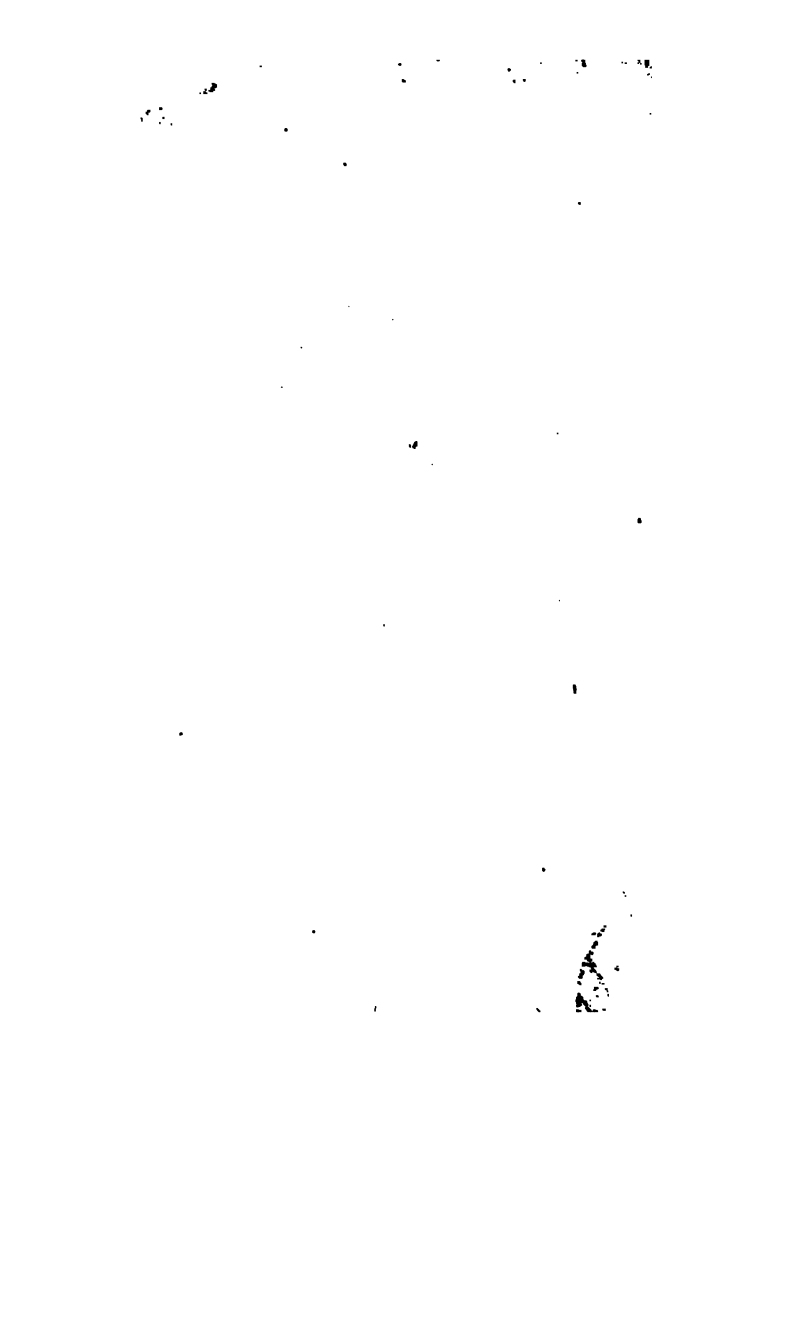
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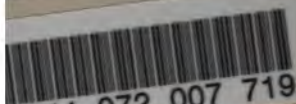






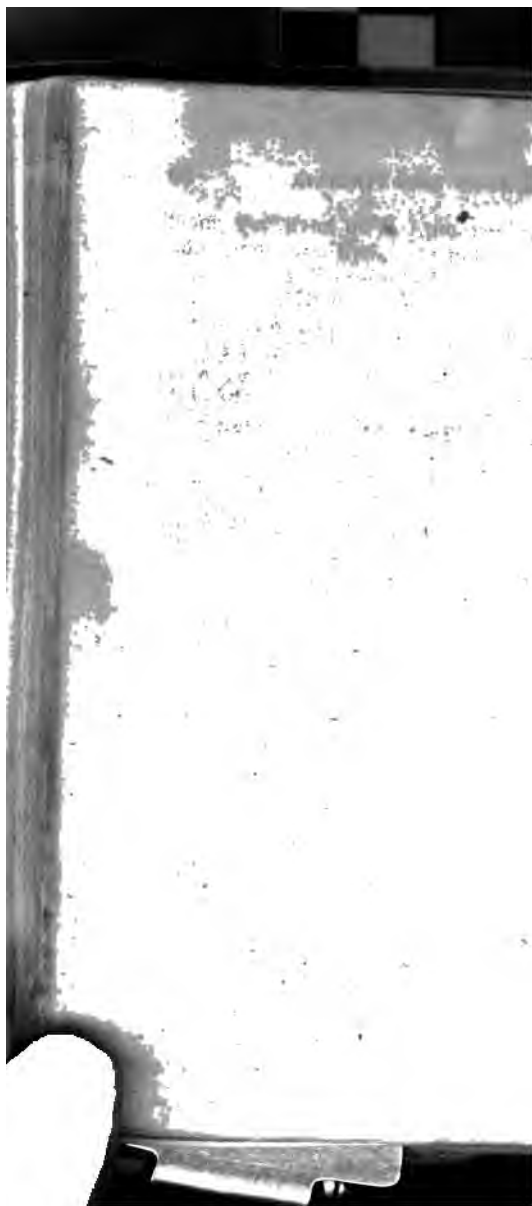






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